

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSCE-00 /011 R

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TO USDEL RIYADH IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061572

TOSEC 751

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, MARCH 18, FROM LISBON  
RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1522

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: ELECTORAL POSTPONEMENT RUMORED

REF: LISBON 1422

1. CITING RELIABLE SOURCES, SOCIALIST EVENING NEWSPAPER REPUBLICA CARRIES HEADLINE MARCH 18 ANNOUNCING POSSIBLE DELAY IN ELECTIONS UNTIL APRIL 25. PAPER SPECULATES THAT DECISION TO DELAY MADE YESTERDAY (MAR. 17), AND CAUSED BY PROBLEMS GOVERNMENT IS HAVING OVER QUESTION OF WHICH PARTY ALLOWED TO USE WHAT SYMBOL ON THE BALLOT (AS REPORTED REFTTEL, FAR-LEFT PARTIES SQUABBLING OVER USE OF HAMMER AND SICKLE). ELECTORAL LAW STATES THAT SYMBOLS MAY NOT BE SIMILAR.

2. VITOR ALVES TOLD EMBASSY SOURCE YESTERDAY THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPROXIMATELY A TEN-DAY DELAY IN DATE FOR ELECTIONS  
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IMMINENT. REASON GIVEN WAS SAME AS THAT GIVEN BY REPUBLICA.

3. NBC CORRESPONDENT TOLD EMBOFF THIS AFTERNOON THAT WHILE ON A VISIT TO MINISTRY OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS HE WAS TOLD BY MINISTRY OFFICIAL THAT OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF DELAY IN ELECTIONS WOULD BE MADE SHORTLY.

4. COMMENT: IT TRUE, DELAY WOULD PUSH BACK ELECTION TO ABOUT APRIL 25, FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF 1974 COUP. TECHNICAL REASONS CITED BY REPUBLICA AND VICTOR ALVES ARE NOT REALLY CREDIBLE, BUT WE NOT PREPARED AT THIS POINT TO SAY THAT ELECTIONS ARE OFF.  
CARLUCCI UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

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